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5 Defend Reporting On Cuba

STATINTL

WASHINGTON — (UPI)

Five newsmen defended their reporting of Cuban affairs in a report released Sunday by the Senate internal security subcommittee.

The correspondents, all of whom visited Cuba since Fidel Castro took power, made their statements in reply to charges by a

TODD Cuban refugee editor that their reports were slanted in favor of Castro.

The charges were leveled by Carlos Todd, head of the Cuban Information Service at Coral Gables. He made the accusations in public testimony before the subcommittee last July.

Todd said the accounts given by the five returning correspondents, put Castro in a favorable light, indicated that food and housing problems had been greatly exaggerated, and claimed that the majority of the Cuban people are behind Castro.

Todd contended such versions contradicted evidence from refugees, and even other newsmen.

The subcommittee report contained denials of bias toward Castro from these five correspondents:

John M. Hlavacek, National Broadcasting Co.; Hendrik J. Berts, Miami News and Radio Station WFTS; Walter L. Oltmans, whose commentary was used on CBS; Charles Kuralt, Columbia Broadcasting System; and Sam Halper, Time, Inc.

Another correspondent accused of bias by Todd — retired Brig. Gen. Hugh B. Hester, North American Newspaper Alliance — did not submit a statement.

CBS and Time acted in behalf of their employees in submitting statements flatly refuting Todd's accusations.

The papers sent letters, scripts and news stories which they said demonstrated that

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